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Bills Strengthening Voter ID Laws and Other Reforms Pass Wisconsin Senate

Madison, WI – A decade after Wisconsin's voter ID provisions were signed into law, Wisconsin Senate Republicans passed a bill strengthening the popular election integrity measure. SB 204 applies the voter ID law to all forms of absentee voting.

"We require voters to show an ID when they cast a ballot at the polls on Election Day, and that's the same process we should require for all absentee voters," Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville), the bill's author, said. Under current Wisconsin law, some absentee voters can avoid showing their ID before receiving a ballot, while others are only required to show their ID once and then subsequently receive absentee ballots for numerous elections.

"As much as possible, voting at the polls and voting by absentee ballot should follow the same process with the same rules. You show your voter ID, you receive your ballot, and you cast your vote," Stroebel said.

Other provisions of the bill include robust reporting requirements for absentee ballot counting on election night, and reforms the state's indefinitely confined voter law to eliminate its abuse by people who falsely claim indefinite confinement.

"We must ensure that we have a voting mechanism in place that allows truly indefinitely confined citizens to participate in elections and this bill does just that," remarked Stroebel.

Another Stroebel-led bill that passed the Senate, SB 205, directs long-term care facilities and the Wisconsin Elections Commission to train facility employees to assist residents in casting an absentee ballot. These special voting assistants will only be used when Special Voting Deputies are unable to enter the facility due to health concerns. SB 205 also makes it a Class I felony for any long-term care facility employee to coerce a resident into casting or not casting a ballot.

Sen. Duey Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes portions of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties.

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